Present: Dan Eveleth, Janine Darragh, Joe Law, Patricia Hart, Kerri Vierling, Mark Nielsen, Todd Thorsteinson, Tim Prather, Jeanne Stevenson, Don Crowley, Kenton Bird, Rick Stoddardt, Heather Chermak, Matthew Brehm
Absent: Ankah Guria
Others present: Grace Miller, Rebecca Frost, Dwaine Hubbard, Mark Warner, Leonard Garrison, Diane Kelly Riley

Call to order: A quorum being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Pitman Cataldo room. The March 7th minutes were approved unanimously.

UCC-16-032 COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: ANTHROPOLOGY

Dan asked how the Anthropology Department would keep track of the six credits of field school or internship credits required in the non-thesis option. Mark responded that most of those six credits come from archeology field schools that offer “an existing, on-the-books course.” Tim suggested adding the course number and Mark affirmed; the number is 409. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes to the Anthropology MA. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-041 COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: PHILOSOPHY

Phil 200 Philosophy of Alcohol is a newly proposed course, appearing at UCC for the first time. Kenton explained to the committee that the course came to UCGE for approval as a Humanities course, but the committee elected not to consider it because it had not been submitted to UCC. A particular committee member strongly opposed the course’s addition; he felt that offering the course would contribute to the university’s reputation as a party school and thereby prove disastrous to the university’s image.

Mark questioned the inclusion of “philosophical” questions like: “what makes a lager a lager and not an ale?” Matthew remarked that newspapers could cherry pick items to report and represent the course differently than its creators intended. Heather noted that the tasting portion of the course may require a permit.

Kenton shared a description of one of the assignments: groups of no more than 6 students gather to taste three drinks, alcohol or non-alcoholic. Todd noted that Brian Ellison asked for his input prior to submitting the course because the Psychology and Communication Studies department offers an Addictions Minor. Brian told him that they were trying to introduce philosophy to students who might otherwise not be interested in taking a philosophy course. Todd informed the committee that he had no problems with the course.

Pat asked what was stopping the committee from approving the course. Was it puritanical? Or was there something wrong with “the guts of the pedagogy?” Mark noted that he is a Mormon faculty member and he took issue with the lack of focus, not the content of the course. He said that if the sentences were removed that deal with the classification of alcohol, he would “vote for it enthusiastically.”
Tim noted that he once had a student who, because he was an alcoholic, excluded himself from activities that involved alcohol. Tim expressed concern that a course like this might exclude or endanger students who chose to avoid alcohol. Dan asked whether the tasting assignments ought to be included in the description, the same way that students are warned of evening exams. Tim suggested that the committee request clarification regarding the legal ramifications of offering alcohol in a classroom context.

Janine told the committee that she felt the rationale was exclusive because it relied on the assumption that students are more interested in alcohol than philosophy. Pat echoed Janine’s concerns. Mark said “academic freedom implies that we can offer a course about whatever we want, so long as it’s a legitimate academic pursuit.”

The committee voted to table the proposal and request more information.

UCC-16-042 COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: ENGLISH

Diane explained that the English department updated the technical writing and business writing courses to meet the Oral Communication requirements within GEM. Rick asked what other oral communication courses are available to students and Diane responded that a public speaking course and Phil 102 are also available. Diane noted that if the courses aren’t updated, they may became bottleneck courses given the high enrollment.

Kerri asked if it were possible to update the title to reflect the oral communication components. Diane responded that the overlap with the Psychology and Communication Studies department confused students. She noted that the English department wanted to maintain the traditional, recognizable course names. Rick remarked that clarity for students outweighs departmental turf wars and Todd responded that changing the name would “muddy the waters.”

Mark asked how long the courses have included speaking assignments. Diane responded that she joined the University in 2013, but she thought the main changes happened following the General Education change. Pat asked whether there were written forms of the verbal assignments and Diane affirmed. She also affirmed that there are graphic aids.

Pat suggested that the description be updated to clarify that writing is foundational to the course. Diane suggested the word “composition.” Dan noted that there appeared to be some agreement that “communication” should be replaced with something else. The committee decided to alter the first sentence of the description to: “Principles and practice of effective business writing.” It was moved and seconded to approve the course changes as amended. Eight voted in favor and Rick opposed. The motion passed.

UCC-16-042 COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

It was moved and seconded to approve the course change. The motion passed unanimously.

UCC-16-042 COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: MUSIC

Leonard told the committee that the Music School has been trying to pare down all degree offerings to 120 credits. With regard to the Music Major (B.A. or B.S.), the accrediting agency is mostly concerned
with the presence of non-music courses. With regard to the Music: Performance degree, the accrediting agency is concerned with the number of music-specific courses.

Kerri asked for clarification regarding the 0 credit requirements. Leonard explained that the recital is a capstone experience and the corequisite lesson is where students prepare for it. The recital is pass/fail and students won’t receive bad grades because it is 0 credits, but they do have to pass the recital in order to graduate.

Dan noted a typo: the 16 credits of foreign language credits should have been changed to 12 credits of foreign language credits. It was moved and seconded to approve the curricular changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no additional questions, the chair closed the meeting at 4:40. UCC’s final meeting is April 4, 2016.

Grace Miller
UCC Secretary